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full of envy at a stranger's goods; they lie in wait to plunder him of every thing, as a lion lieth in wait for the cattle; they have no mercy on the stranger; even if a stranger were to strip off his skin and to give it to them, they would seize upon it."

The only Foreign Members whom the Society has lost during the last year are Dr. Adam Afzelius, of Upsala, and Professor Morichini, of Rome.

Dr. Adam Afzelius was born at Larg in West Gothland in 1750, and was one of the last surviving pupils of Linnæus. In 1777 he was appointed Reader of Oriental Literature and in 1785 Demonstrator of Botany in the University of Upsala, and he made his first appearance as an author by the publication of a short supplement to the *Flora Suecica* of his master, in the Transactions of the Academy of Stockholm for 1787. In the years 1792 and 1794, he made botanical expeditions to Guinea and Sierra Leone, and a considerable part of the collections which he formed in those countries passed subsequently into the herbariums of Sir Joseph Banks and Sir James Edward Smith. In 1797 he was made Secretary of Legation to the Swedish Embassy in this country, and in the following year he was elected a Foreign Member of the Royal Society on the ground of his great knowledge of botany and zoology. Upon his return to his own country, he became Professor of Materia Medica and Diætetics, at Upsala, situations which he retained for the remainder of his life. He was the author of a learned paper in the Linnean Transactions for 1791 on the genus *Trifolium*, and also of two works entitled *Remedia Guinensia* and *Stirpium in Guinea medicinalium species*: he edited likewise the botanical Correspondence of Linnæus. He was a botanist of great learning and acquirements, and highly esteemed by the leading founders of the Linnean Society; but I am unable to connect his name with any considerable advancement in natural knowledge.

Professor Morichini, of Rome, was elected a Foreign Member of the Royal Society in 1827, and is chiefly known for his experiment on the magnetizing influence of the violet rays in the solar spectrum. His experiment was repeated by Configliachi at Pavia, and by Berard at Montpellier, without success, and in consequence doubts were expressed of the accuracy of his results, which appeared to be finally removed by the successful repetition of it by our justly celebrated countrywoman Mrs. Somerville, in the summer of 1825. I am not aware however that any other philosopher has succeeded in a similar attempt.

Statement of the Council relative to Mr. Panizzi's Pamphlet.

In the pamphlet recently published by Mr. Panizzi, entitled "A Letter to His Royal Highness the President of the Royal Society, on the New Catalogue of the Library of that Institution now in the press," all the charges brought forward against the Council are founded on the most unwarranted and erroneous assumptions.

Mr. Panizzi, assumes, in the first place, that the Council was bound to pay him *in advance* the remuneration agreed upon for the completion of the Catalogue ; such payment in advance never having been for a moment contemplated. His payment was to have been at the rate of £30 for every thousand titles the Catalogue might contain ; but, in consideration that the work would probably require a long time to accomplish, it was agreed that one third of the money should be given to him when he had written out all the titles on slips of paper, another third when the revises were finally corrected for the press, and the remaining third when the whole was printed off. The total number of titles written out by Mr. Panizzi, as counted by Mr. Shuckard, by whose computation he consented to abide, was found to be 24,136 ; which at the rate of £10 per thousand, would render the sum he ought to have received at the present stage of his work, £241 : 7s. 2d., but from this sum £27 : 6s. is to be deducted in payment of Mr. Robertson, as had been agreed to by Mr. Panizzi, reducing it to £214 : 1s. 2d. At the period when Mr. Panizzi discontinued the work he had already received from the Society £450 *on account*, which is more than double the sum to which he was then strictly entitled. The Council, therefore, far from imagining that he had any further claims on the Society, considered that in advancing him so large a sum before he had completed the second term of his engagement, they had rather erred on the side of liberality. They could never have had an idea that he expected any additional payment, as he never gave them the slightest intimation to that effect ; and it is not until after the lapse of sixteen months that he suddenly makes an appeal, not to the Council of the Royal Society, but to the public, by the circulation of a pamphlet, claiming further remuneration, which he has never applied for to the party from whom he imagines it to be due.

In the second place, Mr. Panizzi assumes that the slips and revises are his own property, and that the Council has no right to them ; and to such a length does he carry this notion, that, even after he had ceased to be employed by the Council, he refused to give up the key of the drawers containing the slips, as if that key were his own property. He likewise still withholds the revises containing the remarks of the Members who had seen them, alleging, while accused by nobody, that they were necessary for his justification. He is evidently not warranted in complaining of Members pointing out what appeared to them to be errors, for if he had deemed this wrong he would not have done the very same thing in his pamphlet, wherein he subjects the sheets of a former Catalogue, not designed for publication and in a very rough and unfinished state, to the ordeal of his severest criticism.

Another of Mr. Panizzi's unwarranted assumptions is his fancying himself at liberty to execute the work on which he was employed in whatever manner he pleased. The Council certainly never delegated to him this power ; but appointed a Committee for the express purpose of superintending the work as it proceeded, and of regulating the manner in which it should be printed : and it was the

duty of Mr. Panizzi, or whoever else might have been employed by the Council, to follow the directions and instructions which might from time to time be given to him by that Committee.

Mr. Panizzi was continually complaining of ill usage, while he at the same time did not disclose the nature of his supposed injuries. He stated that he could not proceed with the work, but would not point out any ground of complaint. When requested to explain wherein he thought himself aggrieved, he would give no definite answer to the inquiry, but proposed to refer matters to an arbitration; leaving the Council all the while unacquainted with the subjects of dispute, or with the points to be settled by such arbitration. When, for the purpose of mutual understanding, he was invited to a conference with the Committee, he refused to meet them, and would only communicate by letter with the Council*.

Finding, at length, that the great cause of the offence taken by Mr. Panizzi consisted in his being directed by the Committee to omit certain comments and notes which he had introduced, in his own name, in the Catalogue, the Council, in deference to his wishes, and in the spirit of conciliation, conceded the point in dispute, and agreed that he might consider the manuscript corrections made by the members of the Committee, merely "as suggestions for his guidance." But, far from meeting them in the same spirit, he next required of the Council, as a condition without which he could not proceed with the Catalogue, a further concession, namely, that they should rescind the whole resolution of its Committee, and declare it null and void. It was obviously impossible to comply with so unreasonable a demand, which seemed so like a mere pretext for the total abandonment of the work: and no alternative remained but to pass the resolution of the 14th July, "that Mr. Panizzi be no longer employed in the formation of the Catalogue."

On the Council requesting the return of the revises in his possession, Mr. Panizzi refused to do so, alleging that they are his private property; nor would he even deliver up the key of the drawers containing the manuscript slips; refusals which, of course, put an end to all further correspondence with him on the part of the Council.

So far from the Council having ever withheld from Mr. Panizzi, as he asserts in his pamphlet they have done, the precise number of titles which he wrote for the Catalogue, they have always been ready to afford him that information. The slips were carefully counted by Mr. Shuckard, in whose accuracy Mr. Panizzi placed the fullest reliance, and who was appointed for that purpose with

* *Note by Mr. Bailey.*—Mr. Panizzi having stated in his letter to the Secretary, of July 8th (see his pamphlet, page 38) that "Mr. Bailey took away my written memorandum, and ordered Mr. Robertson not to take any step," I beg to remark, first, that, *when that letter was read* at the Council, I was surprised at the assertion, and distinctly denied the fact, never having seen nor heard of the written memorandum therein referred to: secondly, that Mr. Robertson was immediately called before the Council, and, on being questioned as to this subject, disclaimed also any knowledge of the circumstance.—FRANCIS BAILEY.

his concurrence. Any inquiry that Mr. Panizzi might have chosen to make as to the results and details of that computation would, at all times, have received the most immediate and complete answer.

Report of the Proceedings of the Council for the past year.

The principal business of public interest which has occupied the attention of the Council relates to the extension of accurate magnetic and meteorological observations in different parts of the world.

A communication having been made by Lieut. William Denison, of the Royal Engineers, of a proposal from General Mulcaster, Inspector-General of Fortifications, that the officers of engineers generally should be employed, under the direction of the Royal Society, in promoting the advancement of science, by carrying on connected series of observations relating to Natural History, Meteorology, Magnetism, and other branches of physical science, and suggesting an application to Government for a grant of funds necessary for effecting so desirable an object; a Committee was appointed to consider of the proposed measure, and of the means of carrying into effect the recommendations contained in the letter of Baron Von Humboldt, addressed in April last to His Royal Highness the President. Conformably with the report made by this Committee, the Council fixed on the ten following places, namely, Gibraltar, Corfu, Ceylon, Hobart Town, Jamaica, Barbadoes, Newfoundland, Toronto, Bagdad, and the Cape of Good Hope, as being the most eligible for carrying on magnetic observations according to the plan recommended by Baron Von Humboldt; those places being permanent stations, where officers of engineers and clerks are always to be found. The Council also determined that, for the present, the observations of magnetism may be limited to those of the direction of the magnetic needle, and the meteorological observations restricted to those made on the four days, and in the manner recommended in Sir John Herschel's instructions.

A grant of 500*l.* from the public funds has since been obtained from the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, in aid of the purchase of the necessary instruments for carrying on the magnetic observations, according to the plan proposed by the Committee, and under the directions of the Royal Society.

A statement having been also laid before the Council by Mr. Christie of the importance of a more accurate determination than has hitherto been made of the variation of the magnetic needle at several points on the coasts and in the interior of Great Britain and Ireland, and likewise of the dip and of the intensity of terrestrial magnetism, the Council, fully concurring in these views, presented to the Lords of the Admiralty a strong recommendation that steps should be taken for carrying into effect the course of observations pointed out by Mr. Christie; and their Lordships have in consequence appointed a Committee to meet and examine into this important subject.

The Council having deemed it desirable that the difference of level